TO: JIM GARRISON JANUARY 13, 1966

FROM: FRANK KLEIN

RE: INTERVIEW OF CARLOS QUIROGA

Carlos Quiroga, who resides at 3134 Derby Place, New Orleans, La., and is employed at Rene Harris Consulting Engineers, met me at my request at the District Attorneys' Office at approximately 10:20 A.M. He had stated that he would prefer that I not visit him at work. The interview lasted until noon. Quiroga appears to be in his early thirties, approx. 5'7-8" tall, slender, black hair, brown eyes, complexion a little darker than average. He is married to an American woman and has children. He speaks English well as he has been in the U.S. for 15 years, having attended Holy Cross High School and St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas. His father (who was in the poultry business in Cuba), mother and two brothers were imprisoned in the Isle of Pines by Castro, and he says that his father was in charge of the entire west coast underground for the Bay of Pigs invasion. His brothers are now in the U.S. (orPuerto Rico), but his parents are still in Cuba though no longer in prison. His father has been given permission to leave the island and will probably move to Puerto Rico soon. He appeared nervous when I talked with him and I feel he involuntarily smiles or smirks when he is not telling the truth (which I believe was several times as shown below). He professed willingness to cooperate in any way. He had told me on the phone that he believed he knew what I wanted to talk to him about so I opened the interview with a question concerning what he thought this was all about. He answered that he believed that we were investigating the assassination of President Kennedy with relation to David Ferrie. I asked him why he believed this and he said that Ferrie had called Bringuier and told him this after Ferrie was subpoenaed by the D.A.'s office. He syas Bringuier told him what Ferrie had said. He also says that Ferrie is "plenty scared". Quiroga also says that SAM D'APINO told him we are making such an investigationand that D'Apino is either working with us or is making his own investigation because D'Apino called him to ask for Ferrie's present address but that he didn't know it. Also he said that we had talked to Bringuier and LOUIS RAVEL about this. He seemed very anxious to talk about Ferrie and said he would help us in any way because Ferrie had hurt the "front". I switched him off to the name of Arcacha because I felt he might have a prepared speech.

SERGIO ARCACHA-SMITH:

He knew this man very well when he was in New Orleans. He was the "delegate" of the Cuban Revolutionary Front here, and Quiroga was active in the front. Ferrie

was also very active and was very close to Arcacha. The two came together when Ferrie went to Arcacha's office in the Balter Bldg. and offered his services to help overthrow Castro. He says that he has heard all the stories about Arcacha collecting money for the front and keeping it but that he dosen't believe that because he, Quiroga, provided money for the support of Arcacha and his family during the last six months he was here. At that time he (Arcacha) lived in the Parkchester Apts. He dosen't remember the number but says that he can show us the exact apartment. Arcacha left New Orleans early in 1963 and he has heard that he was living in either Dallas or Houston. When Arcacha left he took with him a car which belonged to a man who is a Guatamalan and had a garage in Jefferson Parish before going bankrupt (he dosen't remember the name). He says that this man was going to "bring a suit" against Arcacha but he dosen't know whether he did. I asked him if it was possible that Arcacha had been charged with car theft in New Orleans or Jefferson and he said that it was possible because Arcacha told him he never wanted to return to New Orleans and Quiroga beleieves it is because of the car incident. Arcacha took the car to Miami, Fla., but the car was not returned to the owner because it would have taken more money to bring it back than it was worth. The Guatamalan has a niece to whom Arcacha owes money and he says that the man is in the import-export business and has an office in the United Fruit Bldg.

Quiroga says that he heard a rumor lately that Arcacha had been sent to McAllen, Texas, "by the government". This is a sort of prison where the govrnment sends Cubans who have done something wrong.

He dosen't believe that Arcacha and Oswald ever met because they were not in New Orleans at the same time. He says that he believes this "unless Arcacha was a double agent", in which case they may have met.

RONNIE CAIRE:

This is a public relations man who "ran Schiro's campaign". Caire gave Arcacha a job when Caire had offices in the Cigali Bldg. (See interview of Arturo Finlay, p. 2). Caire organized and ran the "Crusade to Free Cuba", but Caire "lost money on the deal". Arcacha was active in this and "embarassed" Caire by doing "something illegal". This illegality was Arcacha's going to Mexico without Caire's knowledge. The illegality was because Cubans are not supposed to cross the broder without informing the government, and Arcacha crossed the border under another name. Caire was furious because he said "Arcacha could have gotten him into a lot of trouble by doing that". He dosen't know the purpose of the trip, but Arcacha went to Mexico many times.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD:

His knowing Oswald must be kept very secret. He has only told the F.B.I. and the Secret Service about the connection with Oswald. After Oswald tried to join Bringuier's organization and then was found handing out the Fair Play for Cuba handbills he suggested to Bringuier that they try to infiltrate Oswald's organization. Pursuant to this he went to Oswald's house on Magazine St. He visited with Oswald about half an hour during which time he heard Oswald speak to a woman who appeared to be his wife in a language which sounded to him like Russian. He asked Oswald if the language was Russian and Oswald told him yes that he was studying the language at Tulane University. Oswald told him that Castro was alright and that what they (U.S.) should be doing was getting ready to invade Venezuela rather than Cuba because that country had a dictator. Oswald gave him a booklet and an application form. He has these in a safety-deposit box. He has shown them to the federals and would let us photograph them. He says that after his father is safely out of Cuba he wants to write a book about the above "for the world". He feels that this will prove that Castro was the instigator of President Kennedy's assassination. He says that this also will disprove the F.B.I.'s statement that Oswald had no members in his organization because if Oswald gave him an application then surely he had given applications to others who must have joined. He says that this was his only contact with Oswald and that Oswald impressed him as being very intelligent and certainly "was not a nut". He feels that there was definitely another person or persons involved in the assassination and that Oswald was paid "by someone", probably agents of Castro. This, plus the treatment of his family, and "the beating of my mother", is why he wants to help in any way he can.

DAVID FERRIE:

HE KNEW Ferrie when he worked with Arcacha in the front organization. He never liked Ferrie and often urged Arcacha to put him out of the group. He says that Ferrie is an extremely intelligent and crafty person and is "capable of anything". He thinks that we ought to try to infiltrate Ferrie. The type of person who could do this would be a young man, rather slovenly, rather effeminate, lonely, no family, jobless and willing to live with Ferrie. If the boy liked flying this would help tremendously as Ferrie is a nut about flying. In fact, he says, Lee Oswald was the "perfect type" for Ferrie. He visited Ferrie's house many times when Ferrie lived in Metairie. The house was always filthy and Ferrie always had a couple of boys living with him. One day in 1961, when Quiroga was at Ferrie's house, one of the boys said to him, "Come on Carlos, let me drive you some place".

Quiroga suggested that the boy drive him home. When they were in the car, the boy said, "Carlos, stay away from Ferrie. I can't tell you who I am working for, but Ferrie is being investigated, and you might get in trouble associating with him". When Quiroga asked what Ferrie was being investigated for, the boy replied "for Communist activities". This upset Quiroga very much because he was alarmed that a Communist had infiltrated their front. He had no more to do with Ferrie except that later he once saw hin on Canal Street and Ferrie told him that he was working as an investigator for Gill. He says that Ferrie made many flights for and with Arcacha. He once flew Arcacha to Miami. He wanted to fly Quiroga to Miami once but Quiroga said no, because Miami is close to Cuba and he was afraid to go because Ferrie maight fly him into Cuba and deliver him to the Castro people. He dosen't know the destinations of any other flights and dosen't know if Ferrie ever flew to Mexico or Cuba, but added, "but he was an airline pilot once wasn't he?". He says Ferrie has an encyclopedic knowledge of the geography of Cuba, and can recite distances, land-marks, and the various depths in Havana Bay.He desrribed the boy who lived with Ferrie as being from Mississippi, being rather young (possibly early 20's), dark hair, heavy beard, about 5'9", 170 lbs. The other boy was also from Mississippi.(Ivon says that he believes he knows who these people are and might have pictures of them). Quiroga was unable to identify a picture of MARTENS.

I asked him if Arcacha ever solicited money from LOUIS RAVEL for a submarine. He says yes, that this was Ferrie's idea and that they actually got the sub and Ferrie had it at his house (it was a small affair) and Ferrie kept it inside where he was trying to install a motor but the thing never worked. Quiroga says that they would have done much better buying one from Roland's Sporting Goods. The sub apparently was one of the kind designed for skin-divers, etc. The purpose of the sub was to be to enter Havana Bay and "blow up some ships". He dosen't know what happened to the sub. (See interview of Arturo Finlay, p. 2). He agrees with the description of Ravel by Finlay saying "Ravel is just too nice and people are always taking advantage of him". He says that our investigation has frightened Ravel to a great degree and Ravel has said recently that he believes he will get out of the revolutionary movement all together.

Quiroga expressed the opinion that Ferrie bought his way out of the trouble he was in in Jefferson Parish when he was "involved with the young boys in the crime against natur case". He believes that Carlos Marcello helped Ferrie get off. Ferrie had a contact in the parish prison who was a deputy and was a short stocky man. This man is supposed to be a Marcello man. When asked why he thought

Ferrie had paid someone off he said that Ferrie had said that the case cost him a lot of money. Quiroga then said "and the case never did come up, did it?". He then proceeded to tell the story of Carlos Marcello offering to contribute money to the Cuban Revolutionary Front. This was set up by Ferrie who brought Quiroga and several other Cubans to meet a man representing Marcello (dosen't know who man was). This man said Marcello would contribute if they would guarantee Marcello the gambling rights in Havana after they had overthrown Castro. Quiroga in particular was against this and told the man they could not guarantee such a thing. Quiroga said he was certain they would overthrow Castro but would be unable to keep their part of the bargain because there would be no gambling in Cuba again and that Marcello would then do them physical harm for not keeping their word. There was no further contact with the Marcello people.

Quiroga says that Ferrie himself is trying to find Arcacha because "you all really have him scared". He dosen't believe Ferrie knows where Arcacha is because Ferrie called Bringuier to attempt to find out Arcacha's whereabouts. Quiroga told Bringuier to mention and emphasize his (Quiroga's) name to Ferrie. The reason for this would be so Ferrie would then contact Quiroga and Quiroga could "pump" him for information. Quiroga feels that if he contacted Ferrie first that Ferrie would become suspicious of Quiroga's motives and would tell him nothing. He says that if we can find out where Ferrie "hangs out" he will arrange to bump into him "accidentally" and then be able to talk to Ferrie and obtain information for us.

Ferrie has no "bad habits" except "you know what" because he dosen't smoke or drink.

GUY BANNISTER:

At the end of the interview I asked the question, in an offhand way, "What position did Guy Bannister hold in the front?" After a considerable pause, Quiroga said "I knew Guy Bannister real well". I again asked what position he held and what he did for the organization. He answered "You mean about the arms?". I said that I hadn't said anything about arms but I was interested in the subject. He replied "well, he didn't have anything to do with arms" (smile). He said that Bannister just helped them in ways like letting them use the phone in his office, etc., "until Arcacha got an office upstairs in the same building.". I pressed him a little about why he had mentioned arms in connection with Bannister but he became evasive and said that he just thought that that is what I was asking about.

DIEGO PANEQUE:

DIEGO PANEQUE:

I asked Quiroga if he knew the location of the training camp used by the front. He replied "the one here or the one across the lake?". I said the one across the lake. He said he didn't know the exzct location but that it was near Covington and that he had never been there. I then said that I would like to know the whereabouts of the one here. He said he didn't know if there was one here. I reminded him of his former reply and he again became evasive and said that he didn't understand my original question, or some such reply (with a smile). He said that Diego Paneque had been the head of the camp across the lake. He is now in Miami and is well known there. He says that the camp belonged to (or was sponsored by the PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CHRISTIANO, which organization was headed by a man by the name of DAVIS. This man was the New Orleans delegate of the organization. He dosen't know the man's first name but he lived at the Parkchester Apts. during 1963 and 1964, and Quiroga can point out the apartment to us. I asked him if the name could be "David" (See testimony of Arturo Finlay, p. 2). He said it could be but he is not sure. Quiroga says that the camp was infiltrated by FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, but before he could give the name I supplied it and he became surprised and asked me how I knew about Fernandez, to which I didn't reply and asked him to go ahead. He says that the F.B.I. refused to do anything to Fernandez after he was discovered adding that this was typical of the F.B.I. and that this is why he has had many arguments with F.B.I. Agent de Bruys (see testimony of Dean Andrews, p. 339). I asked him where Fernandez was now and he said he didn't know, that he had just disappeared (smile) after the government refused to do anything about him. He has a picture of Fernandez which he will supply to me (it is the same picture that appeared in the Miami newspaper called "Las Diarias de las Americanas"). He carries Fernandez' name written on a piece of paper in his wallet "so that I will never forget him".

Regarding the arms cache he says that it was seized by the F.B.I. and consisted of bombs. He says that the cache was near the Covington camp but had no connection with the camp. He dosen't know the location of the cache (smile).

In General:

Quiroga was unable to identify any of the persons in the three newsreel pictures. He says that he believes that the F.B.I. (who also showed him the pictures) has identified all but one of the persons, but which one he dosen't know.

He was unable to identify or recognize the mug shot of TORRES and said that the name of SANTANA was not familiar to him.

He does not recognize any of the names from Mrs. Odio's testimony except the names of GEORGE RODRIGUES ALVAREDA and EMANUEL SALVAT which sound familiar to him but he can't place them.

He knows ORLANDO PIEDRA very well (See interview of Arturo Finlay, p. 2) and he is going to write to Piedra (who knew Arcacha well) and try to find out if he has seen Arcacha. He will supply the address to us.

Quiroga says that he is still very active in the revolutionary front and that he missed the Bay of Pigs "by one day" but that he was supposed to go. He says that what is a big problem with the front is that "everyone wants to do a lot of talking but they never do anything".

He would like to get Ferrie into his house where he would have "a lot of tape recorders". He feels that he could find out a lot from Ferrie.

He says that a good place to check for Cubans like Arcacha is in the Protestant or Catholic Directories in the various towns that they may be. He says that there is one in all towns which have any number of Cubans living there.

This man knows a lot more than he is telling us.

FK